GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3808
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
DECLINE IN SOWING AREA OF OILSEED
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether edible oil crop acreage has shrunk considerably as reported in the Business Standard dated April 9, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The Business Standard dated 9th April 2007 reported that, among other things, oilseeds acreage declined by 5.47 percent. As per the 3rd advance estimates for 2006-07, acreage under kharif and rabi oilseeds stands at 25.99 million hectares compared to 27.86 million hectares during 2005-06, showing a decrease of 1.87 million hectares. The kharif acreage declined from 17.37 million hectares in 2005-06 to 16.55 million tonnes and the rabi acreage declined from 10.49 million hectares to 9.44 million hectares in 2006-07. The area shrinkage under oilseeds has been mainly due to that in Groundnut in kharif season and Rapeseed & Mustard in rabi season. Groundnut area declined in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka due to drought like situation at the time of sowing, and in Gujarat due to diversion of groundnut area to Cotton. The area under Rapeseed & Mustard has been diverted to Wheat crop specially in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana and to Gram in Madhya Pradesh.

(c): A Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is in place from 01.04.2004 for increasing production and productivity of oilseeds in the country. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation seeds, distribution of seed minikits, infrastructure development, block demonstrations on improved technology, integrated pest management, weedicides, distribution of sprinkler sets and farmers training. The Budget 2007-08 announced proposals to expand the ISOPOM.